

**Price List And Directions For
Growing Our
AMERICAN HOLLY
(Ilex opaca)
IN THE NORTH**



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Foreword

During the past thirty years on the northern limit of our Native American Holly, we have brought together at Ashumet Farm selected collection of the best of these.

At this time we are offering the best of these selections for sale. With the conviction that these Hollies are by far the best to plant north of Philadelphia and below the two thousand foot elevation in the North.

Hardiness has been the main objective in our selections and no trees were used that showed any signs of winter injury. Even in extremely cold places we believe that if you will follow the directions given in this folder you will be able to grow good American Hollies.

Other considerations given to our selections were to value the tree for various uses; as Landscape; Orchard; Specimens; Shape; Border planting; Size and color of berries; Size and color of the leaves; The way the berries were spaced on the tree; Season of Blooming; Season of the berries ripening; Early bearing of the berries; Ease of propagation.

We believe that you will have great satisfaction in growing our hollies, not alone as garden, lawn or estate trees, but for their traditional value in their beauty as an adjunct to the Christmas Season.

Much has been said and written as to why you cannot grow Hollies here in the north. But if you will forget most of this and remember that there are only a few rules to successful Holly culture, then you may enjoy the growing of this beautiful and much neglected evergreen.

The first thing to remember is that there must be two Hollies for successful berry bearing, a male and a female plant — the female being the berry bearing tree — the male will pollenize many females within a limited distance.

Then remember that Hollies must have the proper soil and this must be acid, such as blueberries, azaleas and rhododendrons are grown in. The soil must be light but fertile. You can make it so by adding sand to heavy soil. Peat can be added to make a light soil hold moisture, also some very old manure or dried commercial manure can be used to make up the necessary fertility.

Good drainage is very important. For while Hollies will grow near a stream or bog their roots must be above the level of the water.

Where the soil is of clay structure remove most of the clay and add humus in the form of peat, oak leaf mould or compost, the soil should be light and friable.

The Holly will stand some shade but will do better in full sunlight. It will stand a lot of wind, but will grow faster and produce berries earlier with some protection from sweeping winds. Holly grows best away from the roots of large trees whose roots



sap the soil of moisture and nourishment. The Holly does well in good garden soil of the right acidity, where no lime has been added.

The Holly is a very long lived tree and therefore it is necessary to give it a good start in life. Dig a big hole, even for a small plant, never less than 3 feet across and at least 2 feet deep. If the soil is sandy, throw it all away and use in the hole plenty of oak leaves or oak leaf mould mixed with top soil from sour land, or a good grade of peat mixed with good loam. Do not plant too deep — keep the Holly about in the same relation to the top of the ground as it originally grew. When the soil is all filled in, water thoroughly. **DO NOT TRAMP** the soil in, let settle and keep slightly below the natural level so that rain water will be

caught and help in keeping the tree roots moist.

The best time to plant a Holly is in the early spring unless you can get pot grown plants. These can be planted at any time provided the trees can be watered. The young or newly planted holly must have plenty of water in dry summer weather as well as in the fall before the ground freezes.

There are, however, places where the autumns are late and the ground does not freeze early, that Hollies can be planted in the fall, quite often as late as the middle of November. This refers to small plants, but larger plants and trees may be planted all winter provided that holes may be dug and the necessary planting material can be secured.

Remember also the Holly must be mulched, to keep the ground cool and moist. Mulches range from oak leaves to saw dust, decayed wood, and peat — the latter is especially good to protect the young hollies from deep freezing its first few winters.

Also remember that commercial fertilizers or bone meal should not be used when planting a Holly and only sparingly until the tree is well established. But animal manures, especially poultry manure, can be used as mulches.

Holly may be pruned to a single stem or left to grow as a large bush. As it comes into bearing some of the longer branches may be pruned slightly at first, and always carefully, to be used for Christmas decorations.

Recently many selections of the best of our northern Hallies have been made and it is far better to start with these rather than with the seedling hollies which have no particular value. The selections have much to recommend them, such as early bearing, large and well colored berries, fine dark foliage and well shaped trees.

Among some of the best of these that have been introduced from Ashumet Farm are the following:

DESCRIPTION OF VARIETIES

EMILY—A truly remarkable tree particularly in that its berries are larger (measuring up to one half inch in diameter) and the tree really dripping with them in greater abundance than most American Hollies.

The tree grows quickly, sets berries when very young and often grows two feet in a season when young and the berries are displayed very openly on the tree. A splendid tree for landscape and orchard planting. Leaves medium size bright green curled and spiny.

FREEMAN—Makes a large tree quickly, six year old trees grow to six feet. It makes long sturdy branches with the berries well displayed, fine for Christmas decoration. Also a fine specimen and landscape tree. Berries are a real Holly red and large. Leaves dark green and large. If you want a tree that grows large quickly, Freeman is the best.

ELIZABETH—The tree is a very upright growing type, does not spread much, a rapid grower, often makes 3 feet in a season. Leaves large up to four

inches in length, glossy green. Fruit large, color a bright orange red held very conspicuously on the tree. Visitors often pronounce Elizabeth as the most beautiful holly at Ashumet Farm. This is a splendid tree for specimen planting. Plants fruit early.

W. set
Book table
NATALE—The Latin name for Christmas, and this is truly a Christmas Holly in that the tree takes a Holly shape and is covered with bright red berries of medium size giving the tree the appearance of being covered with a bright red blanket. Fruits very young and the sprays of berries are splendid for making Christmas wreaths with. Tree is inclined to be small. The original tree grew in the coldest spot on Cape Cod, facing north, on a hill it got all the Artic winds and cold weather from Canada.

SAINT MARY—This variety was named for the Island of Saint Mary in Ostervill harbor, which in turn was named for the Virgin Mary. This Holly is one of the best to grow as a pot or container plant as it makes a real Holly tree shape very quickly and produces quantities of bright colored berries. The tree is compact rather slow growing but makes a fine tree for a high hedge. A splendid type where a medium sized tree is wanted.

SAINT ANN—Another tree from Saint Mary's Island and a complete opposite in character to Saint Mary in that it makes a large tree, and grows with long sweeping branches, a splendid tree for a holly orchard. It bears abundantly large brilliantly colored berries well spaced on the branches so that they are shown very conspicuously. Fine large leaves well spined and a deep green, a good tree for border or boundary planting.

PERPETUAL—So named because it keeps its brilliant red berries on the tree year around and is red both summer and winter. The tree is tall grows quickly and sets berries when very young. The tree is inclined to be slender and the original tree at Ashumet Farm is above thirty five feet. The foliage is a dark shiny green quite like the English hollies, and the tree is a beautiful picture the year around.

AALTO—This holly is the nearest color in its leaves to the English hollies, and always attracts attention to its dark shiny leaves, and unusually dark and brilliant berries. The tree is inclined to grow densely and upright, the berries are held on short heavy stems and the tree is covered with them, makes fine branches for Christmas cutting.

BARBERRY—So called for the resemblance in the berry to the fruit of the Japanese barberry. Here is a real hedge holly in that it is quite dwarf in habit, grows very thickly, the leaves are small, spiny and dark green, berries are small barberry shape and brilliant in color and fruits abundantly. Barberry makes a small bushy tree that can be used to advantage at entrances or at the corners of buildings where you need a low growing tree.

LAURA THOMAS—A fast growing tree grows straight with central stem well branched. Leaves large up to four inches long and well spined. Ber-

ries large on the orange colored side but very attractive as they are very conspicuous on the tree. A splendid tree to cut your Christmas decorations from. Trees fruit young.

GOLDIE—The best yellow fruited one we have tried, it attracts more attention than the red berried hollies because of its beautiful foliage and the great profusion of golden berries. Goldie should be in every collection of hollies and can be used in decorations mixed with the red berries. The birds are fond of this variety and will strip the tree before eating the red fruits.

MALE HOLLIES—I have always maintained that male hollies should be planted, not only for pollination, but also as landscape and street trees. A good male holly in bloom is not only a beautiful sight but its fragrance will linger long in your remembrance. I have selected two males for their heavy bloom as well as beauty in dark foliage and splendid shape in the tree. Ashumet and David combine all that is desirable in MALES.

ENGLISH OR AQUIFOLIUM HOLLIES—While this circular is descriptive of American hollies, we have grown and tested many types and strains of the English hollies and have quite a collection of the best of these, as well as Asiatic types. We advise the planting of these north of New York only along the sea coast or in such places where the winter climate does not go below zero. The winter just past has been a real test for Aquifolium hollies and at this writing (March 20th) it looks as if many of these hollies have suffered badly. Apparently cold sweeping winds have been harder on these hollies than low temperature alone.

The hybrid hollies between Chinese and English seem to have come thru the winter much better than the pure Aquifoliums.

PRICES on the above AMERICAN HOLLIES

Rooted cuttings from Jiffy Pots 4-6".

a \$1.25 P. P. to 3rd Zone
per dozen \$15.00 by Express not paid

One year plants 3" pots

a \$2.00 each P. P. to 3rd Zone
\$12.00 per dozen by express

2 year plants from the field balled

\$4.00 each P. P. to 3rd Zone
Dozen \$38.00 by Express

Larger field grown plants from \$7.50 and specimen plants from \$35.00

Male plants same prices as Females

INVITATION—Come to the Farm and see the Hollies growing. Best time to see colored berries from November 1st thru the winter.

Come in May for the Dogwoods, Magnolias, and other Flowering Trees. See the Franklinia after the 1st of October.

ASHUMET FARM—Situating, on Route 151. Enter from the West on Route 28 and from the East from the Circle in Mashpee.

Ashumet Farm
Falmouth,
Massachusetts

Wilfrid Wheeler

